

Contract No.:

Caption: Sexual Health Text Message Service

Proposed Contractor: Planned Parenthood- Responsible Sex Education Institute

Program: Department of Health, HIV, Hepatitis, & AIDS Administration (HAHSTA)

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700, 1701, and 2005.2 (b)

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The Government of the District of Columbia, Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) on behalf of DOH HAHSTA seeks to implement "In Case You're Curious", the sexual health text message system subscription, through Planned Parenthood- Responsible Sex Education Institute. This service would be from November 1, 2015- October 31, 2016.

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

The estimated fair and reasonable price for a sole source extension of this contract is not to exceed \$20,000.00.

4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (**HAHSTA**) is the core District government agency to prevent HIV/AIDS, STDs, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis, reduce transmission of the diseases and provide care and treatment to persons with the diseases. HAHSTA partners with health and community-based organizations to offer a variety of services to prevent and care for diseases. HASTA provides direct service, resources and education through a variety of methods including in person, phone system and digital means.

The Responsible Sex Education Institute, a division of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, maintains the subscription service In Case You are Curious (ICYC) a unique Short Message Service (SMS) that provides anonymous medically accurate sexual health information to young people. ICYC has been in existence since 2011.

This sexual health SMS is staffed by bi-lingual (Spanish/English) trained sexual health educators, who provide medically accurate answers and resource referral tailored to the youth population of a specific geographical area. This SMS does not require the user to enroll in a text message program. Participants only engage with the SMS when they have an inquiry. Other sexual health focuses SMS programs require enrollment into a weekly text message program or only provide locations of services. ICYC is able to provide near immediate response to questions and resource referral without a young person incurring

recurrent charges to their mobile provider. ICYC has developed a database of answers for over 1,000 frequently asked questions for rapid response and is able to respond to less common questions within 24 hours. Text responses are 160 characters or less and all referral sources are specific to a determined geographic area. ICYC provides referral for non-sexual related questions and reports any reports of suicidality, abuse or neglect to local police.

HAHSTA conducted market research to assess the marketplace of prospective contractors which may be suitable for fulfillment of the subject requirements, but to no avail, the program was unable to secure any substantial responses to their research at that time. Currently there is no similar existing SMS subscription service able to meet this need. Discussion with sexual health messaging and digital service providers currently serving the District and other jurisdictions are not been able to provide similar services either because they do not have the man power, the training, or the system requirements. A literature search provided journal and mainstream media articles indicating that currently the only provider of a service of this type is the vendor we are seeking justification for.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date

LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director, Department of Health

6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER:

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with Section 404(c) of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Official Code §2-354.04) and that no response was received. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

Date

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive solicitation process under either Section 303, 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices

Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.02 or 2-354.03).
According, I determine that the District is justified in the sole source extension method of
procurement.

Date

George A. Schutter
Chief Procurement Officer